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U.S. DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MARYLAND



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October 19, 2011

Warren Hamel, Esquire
Venable, LLP
Suite 900
750 E. Pratt Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202A

Re: United States v. Torre Johnson, Criminal #: RDB-11-0346

Dear Mr. Johnson:

This letter, together with the Sealed Supplement, confirms the plea agreement which has been offered to the Defendant by the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Maryland ("this Office"). If the Defendant accepts this offer, please have him execute it in the spaces provided below. If this offer has not been accepted by October 28, 2011, at 5:00 p.m., it will be deemed withdrawn. The terms of the agreement are as follows:

Offense of Conviction

1. The Defendant agrees to plead guilty to Count Two of the Indictment now pending against him, which charges him with Bank Robbery, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2113(a), (d), and (f). The Defendant admits that he is, in fact, guilty of that offense and will so advise the Court.

Elements of the Offense

2. The elements of the offense to which the Defendant has agreed to plead guilty to, and which this Office would prove if the case went to trial, are as follows:

- a. That the defendant knowingly took money from the presence of a person;
- b. That the money belonged to or was in the care, custody, control,



management or possession of a bank insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; and

c. That the defendant did so by force and violence or by acting in an intimidating manner; and

d. That the defendant, by using a dangerous weapon or device, assaulted someone or put someone's life in jeopardy.

Penalties

3. The maximum sentence provided by statute for the offense to which your client is pleading guilty is as follows: twenty (25) years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and up to five (5) years supervised release. In addition, the Defendant must pay \$100 as a special assessment pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3013, which will be due and should be paid at or before the time of sentencing. This Court may also order him to make restitution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 3663, 3663A, and 3664.¹ If a fine or restitution is imposed, it shall be payable immediately, unless, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3572(d), the Court orders otherwise. The Defendant understands that if he serves a term of imprisonment, is released on supervised release, and then violates the conditions of his supervised release, his supervised release could be revoked - even on the last day of the term - and the Defendant could be returned to custody to serve another period of incarceration and a new term of supervised release. The Defendant understands that the Bureau of Prisons has sole discretion in designating the institution at which the Defendant will serve any term of imprisonment imposed.

Waiver of Rights

4. The Defendant understands that by entering into this agreement, he surrenders certain rights as outlined below:

a. If the Defendant had persisted in his plea of not guilty, he would have had the right to a speedy jury trial with the close assistance of competent counsel. That trial could be conducted by a judge, without a jury, if the Defendant, this Office, and the Court all agreed.

b. If the Defendant elected a jury trial, the jury would be composed of twelve individuals selected from the community. Counsel and the Defendant would have the opportunity to challenge prospective jurors who demonstrated bias or who were otherwise unqualified, and would have the opportunity to strike a certain number of jurors peremptorily. All twelve jurors would have to agree unanimously before the Defendant could be found guilty of any count. The jury would be instructed that the Defendant was presumed to be innocent, and that presumption could be overcome only by proof beyond a reasonable doubt.

¹ Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3612, if the Court imposes a fine in excess of \$2,500 that remains unpaid 15 days after it is imposed, the Defendant shall be charged interest on that fine, unless the Court modifies the interest payment in accordance with 18 U.S.C. § 3612(f)(3).

c. If the Defendant went to trial, the government would have the burden of proving the Defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. The Defendant would have the right to confront and cross-examine the government's witnesses. The Defendant would not have to present any defense witnesses or evidence whatsoever. If the Defendant wanted to call witnesses in his defense, however, he would have the subpoena power of the Court to compel the witnesses to attend.

d. The Defendant would have the right to testify in his own defense if he so chose, and he would have the right to refuse to testify. If he chose not to testify, the Court could instruct the jury that they could not draw any adverse inference from his decision not to testify.

e. If the Defendant were found guilty after a trial, he would have the right to appeal the verdict and the Court's pretrial and trial decisions on the admissibility of evidence to see if any errors were committed which would require a new trial or dismissal of the charges against him. By pleading guilty, the Defendant knowingly gives up the right to appeal the verdict and the Court's decisions.

f. By pleading guilty, the Defendant will be giving up all of these rights, except the right, under the limited circumstances set forth in the "Waiver of Appeal" paragraph below, to appeal the sentence. By pleading guilty, the Defendant understands that he may have to answer the Court's questions both about the rights he is giving up and about the facts of his case. Any statements the Defendant makes during such a hearing would not be admissible against him during a trial except in a criminal proceeding for perjury or false statement.

g. If the Court accepts the Defendant's plea of guilty, there will be no further trial or proceeding of any kind, and the Court will find him guilty.

h. By pleading guilty, the Defendant will also be giving up certain valuable civil rights and may be subject to deportation or other loss of immigration status. The Defendant recognizes that if he is not a citizen of the United States, pleading guilty may have consequences with respect to his immigration status. Under federal law, conviction for a broad range of crimes can lead to adverse immigration consequences, including automatic removal from the United States. Removal and other immigration consequences are the subject of a separate proceeding, however, and the Defendant understands that no one, including his attorney or the Court, can predict with certainty the effect of a conviction on immigration status. Defendant nevertheless affirms that he wants to plead guilty regardless of any potential immigration consequences.

Advisory Sentencing Guidelines Apply

5. The Defendant understands that the Court will determine a sentencing guidelines range for this case (henceforth the "advisory guidelines range") pursuant to the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984 at 18 U.S.C. §§ 3551-3742 (excepting 18 U.S.C. §§ 3553(b)(1) and 3742(e)) and 28 U.S.C. §§ 991 through 998. The Defendant further understands that the Court will impose a sentence pursuant to the Sentencing Reform Act, as excised, and must take into account the advisory guidelines range in establishing a reasonable sentence.

Factual and Advisory Guidelines Stipulation

6. This Office and the Defendant understand, agree and stipulate to the Statement of Facts set forth in Attachment A hereto which this Office would prove beyond a reasonable doubt and to the following applicable sentencing guidelines factors:

a. The base offense level for bank robbery is twenty (20) pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 2B3.1(a).

b. Pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 2B3.1(b)(1), there is a two (2) level increase because the property of a financial institution was taken.

7. This Office and the Defendant agree that the following facts and/or sentencing guidelines factors are in dispute:

a. Whether there should be an increase of five (5) levels pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 2B3.1(b)(2)(E), because a firearm was brandished or possessed

8. This Office does not oppose a two-level reduction in the Defendant's adjusted offense level, based upon your client's apparent prompt recognition and affirmative acceptance of personal responsibility for his criminal conduct. This Office agrees to make a motion pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(b) for an additional 1-level decrease in recognition of your client's acceptance of personal responsibility for his conduct. This Office may oppose *any* adjustment for acceptance of responsibility if your client (a) fails to admit each and every item in the factual stipulation; (b) denies involvement in the offense; (c) gives conflicting statements about his involvement in the offense; (d) is untruthful with the Court, this Office or the United States Probation Officer; (e) obstructs or attempts to obstruct justice prior to sentencing; (f) engages in any criminal conduct between the date of this agreement and the date of sentencing; or (g) attempts to withdraw his plea of guilty. **The final anticipated base offense level is between 19 (defense) and 24 (government).**

9. The Defendant understands that there is no agreement as to his criminal history or criminal history category, and that his criminal history could alter his offense level if he is a career offender or if the instant offense was a part of a pattern of criminal conduct from which he derived a substantial portion of his income. This Office believes that the Defendant is a Career Offender, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 4B1.1.

10. This Office and the Defendant agree that, with respect to the calculation of the advisory guidelines range, no other offense characteristics, sentencing guidelines factors, potential departures or adjustments set forth in Chapters 2, 3, 4 or 5 of the United States Sentencing Guidelines will be raised or are in dispute.

Obligations of the United States Attorney's Office

11. At the time of sentencing, the United States Attorney's Office will recommend a sentence in the guidelines range as determined by the Court.

12. The parties reserve the right to bring to the Court's attention at the time of sentencing, and the Court will be entitled to consider, all relevant information concerning the Defendant's background, character and conduct.

Waiver of Appeal

13. In exchange for the concessions made by this Office and the Defendant in this plea agreement, this Office and the Defendant waive their rights to appeal as follows:

a) The Defendant knowingly waives all right, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1291 or otherwise, to appeal the Defendant's conviction;

b) The Defendant and this Office knowingly waive all right, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3742 or otherwise, to appeal whatever sentence is imposed (including the right to appeal any issues that relate to the establishment of the advisory guidelines range, the determination of the defendant's criminal history, the weighing of the sentencing factors, and the decision whether to impose and the calculation of any term of imprisonment, fine, order of forfeiture, order of restitution, and term or condition of supervised release), except as follows: (i) the Defendant reserves the right to appeal any term of imprisonment to the extent that it exceeds the guidelines range as determined by the Court; (ii) and this Office reserves the right to appeal any term of imprisonment to the extent that it is below the guidelines range as determined by the Court.

c) Nothing in this agreement shall be construed to prevent the Defendant or this Office from invoking the provisions of Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 35(a), or from appealing from any decision thereunder, should a sentence be imposed that resulted from arithmetical, technical, or other clear error.

d) The Defendant waives any and all rights under the Freedom of Information Act relating to the investigation and prosecution of the above-captioned matter and agrees not to file any request for documents from this Office or any investigating agency.

Restitution

14. The Defendant agrees to the entry of a Restitution Order for the full amount of the victims' losses. The Defendant agrees that, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 3663 and 3663A and §§ 3563(b)(2) and 3583(d), the Court may order restitution of the full amount of the actual, total loss caused by the offense conduct set forth in the factual stipulation. The Defendant further agrees that he will fully disclose to the probation officer and to the Court, subject to the penalty of perjury, all information, including but not limited to copies of all relevant bank and financial records, regarding the current location and prior disposition of all funds obtained as a result of the criminal conduct set forth in the factual stipulation. The Defendant further agrees to take all reasonable steps to retrieve or repatriate any such funds and to make them available for restitution. If the Defendant does not fulfill this provision, it will be considered a material breach of this plea agreement, and this Office may seek to be relieved of its obligations under this agreement.

Obstruction or Other Violations of Law

15. The Defendant agrees that he will not commit any offense in violation of federal, state or local law between the date of this agreement and his sentencing in this case. In the event that the Defendant (i) engages in conduct after the date of this agreement which would justify a finding of obstruction of justice under U.S.S.G. § 3C1.1, or (ii) fails to accept personal responsibility for his conduct by failing to acknowledge his guilt to the probation officer who prepares the Presentence Report, or (iii) commits any offense in violation of federal, state or local law, then this Office will be relieved of its obligations to the Defendant as reflected in this agreement. Specifically, this Office will be free to argue sentencing guidelines factors other than those stipulated in this agreement, and it will also be free to make sentencing recommendations other than those set out in this agreement. As with any alleged breach of this agreement, this Office will bear the burden of convincing the Court of the Defendant's obstructive or unlawful behavior and/or failure to acknowledge personal responsibility by a preponderance of the evidence. The Defendant acknowledges that he may not withdraw his guilty plea because this Office is relieved of its obligations under the agreement pursuant to this paragraph.

Court Not a Party

16. The Defendant expressly understands that the Court is not a party to this agreement. In the federal system, the sentence to be imposed is within the sole discretion of the Court. In particular, the Defendant understands that neither the United States Probation Office nor the Court is bound by the stipulation set forth above, and that the Court will, with the aid of the Presentence Report, determine the facts relevant to sentencing. The Defendant understands that the Court cannot rely exclusively upon the stipulation in ascertaining the factors relevant to the determination of sentence. Rather, in determining the factual basis for the sentence, the Court will consider the stipulation, together with the results of the presentence investigation, and any other relevant information. The Defendant understands that the Court is under no obligation to accept this Office's recommendations, and the Court has the power to impose a sentence up to and including the statutory maximum stated above. The Defendant understands that if the Court ascertains factors different from those contained in the stipulation set forth above, or if the Court should impose any sentence up to the maximum established by statute, the Defendant cannot, for that reason alone, withdraw his guilty plea, and will remain bound to fulfill all of his obligations under this agreement. The Defendant understands that neither the prosecutor, his counsel, nor the Court can make a binding prediction, promise, or representation as to what guidelines range or sentence the Defendant will receive. The Defendant agrees that no one has made such a binding prediction or promise.

Entire Agreement

17. This letter supersedes any prior understandings, promises, or conditions between this Office and the Defendant and, together with the Sealed Supplement, constitutes the complete plea agreement in this case. The Defendant acknowledges that there are no other agreements, promises, undertakings or understandings between the Defendant and this Office other than those set forth in this letter and the Sealed Supplement and none will be entered into unless in writing and signed by all parties.

If the Defendant fully accepts each and every term and condition of this agreement, please sign and have the Defendant sign the original and return it to me promptly.

Very truly yours,

Rod J. Rosenstein
United States Attorney

By: 

Paul Budlow
Assistant United States Attorney

I have read this agreement, including the Sealed Supplement, and carefully reviewed every part of it with my attorney. I understand it, and I voluntarily agree to it. Specifically, I have reviewed the Factual and Advisory Guidelines Stipulation with my attorney, and I do not wish to change any part of it. I am completely satisfied with the representation of my attorney.

10/28/11
Date


Torre Johnson

I am Torre Johnson's attorney. I have carefully reviewed every part of this agreement, including the Sealed Supplement, with him. He advises me that he understands and accepts its terms. To my knowledge, his decision to enter into this agreement is an informed and voluntary one.

11/15/11
Date


Warren Hamel, Esquire

ATTACHMENT A - STATEMENT OF FACTS

The undersigned parties hereby stipulate and agree that the following facts are true and accurate, and that if this matter had gone to trial, the government would have proven the following facts beyond a reasonable doubt. The undersigned parties also stipulate and agree that the following facts do not encompass all of the evidence that would have been presented had this matter gone to trial.

Otis Nelson ("Nelson"), age 46, and Torre Laron Johnson ("Johnson") age 35, are from Baltimore, Maryland. On April 12, 2011, Nelson and Johnson robbed the PNC Bank in the Reisterstown Road Plaza in Baltimore City ~~at gunpoint~~. The details of the robbery are below.

On Monday, April 12, 2011, at approximately 11:07 am, Johnson and Nelson entered the Giant Food grocery store, located inside the Reisterstown Road Plaza shopping center, at 6620 Reisterstown, Road, in Baltimore City, Maryland. Once inside the grocery store, Johnson and Nelson walked into the PNC Bank, which is located inside the grocery store. Johnson stood by the entrance to the bank and acted as a lookout. Nelson jumped over the small door that separated the customer area from the teller area. The teller would testify that Nelson approached her, displaying what she believed to be a small black semi-automatic handgun and stated, "give me all the money, don't say anything, you give me any dy packs I will shoot you." The teller would further testify that Nelson attempted to conceal himself by crouching down behind the counter as he pointed the weapon at her. The teller opened the cash drawer and stepped away from the drawer, giving Nelson access. Nelson removed \$6,730 of U.S. currency from the drawer, and jumped over the same small door. Nelson and Johnson left the bank together, and then fled the Giant grocery store as well. Nelson and Johnson then entered a vehicle driven by a third person and fled the area.

Approximately 5-10 minutes after the robbery, Nelson and Johnson were observed by police officers in a car at the intersection of Garrison Blvd and Boarman Avenue. Upon seeing the police officer, Nelson and Johnson bailed out of the car and ran down the 4000 block of Boarman Avenue. Johnson ultimately stopped when the officer pulled up next to him. Near Johnson was a ski mask, that he later admitted was his. A pair of rubber gloves was found in Johnson's pockets. Nelson ran down an alley and was apprehended approximately 30 minutes later hiding in a staircase under a porch, covered by a screen. The grey sweatshirt Nelson wore during the robbery was found nearby with rubber gloves in the pocket.

In a vacant home along the route that Nelson ran when he left Boarman Avenue, investigators located \$6,680 of the U.S. currency that was taken from the PNC Bank. The owner of the house was interviewed and said that he has never seen Nelson, but that a homeless man used to live under the porch until they kicked him out.

At the time of the robbery, the PNC Bank was insured by the FDIC.

I have read this statement of facts, and carefully reviewed it with my attorney. I acknowledge that it is true and correct.

11/18/11
Date

Torre L. Johnson
Torre L. Johnson

I am Mr. Johnson's attorney. I have carefully reviewed the statement of facts with him.

11/18/11
Date

Warren Hamel
Warren Hamel, Esquire